

MSSNY Council Report
Joshua M. Cohen, MD, MPH, Councilor
Manhattan and the Bronx
September 17, 2015
New York County Medical Society

New York County Medical Society

- É The Society continues to focus on membership by providing assistance to help members with their practice needs. On August 27, the Society hosted an in-person session for over 100 members on ICD-10. In addition, members also received the opportunity to access a series of very brief slide/audio presentations on a number of elements of ICD-10, as well as a step-by-step reference booklet. Notice of these concrete benefits were also sent to those of good standing, alerting them that they were missing on opportunities because they were no longer members.
- É The Society is continuing seeking ways to reach out to groups in order to discuss membership possibilities. Discussions are continuing with an area urgent care group, and ways to reach out to a multi-county specialty group are also being discussed. Although efforts to conclude a deal with a large multi-hospital group did not come to fruition, the Society continues to look for ways to work with leaders on projects of mutual interest as a way of keeping connections and possibilities open in future.
- É On July 21, 14 members of the Society leadership met with Senator Liz Kruger at a breakfast meeting to discuss out-of-network issues, collective negotiation, and issues related to healthcare staffing in underserved areas and availability of residency programs. The need for insurance companies to be transparent in terms of reimbursement rates and policies and network was discussed, as well as sharing responsibility for financing more needed residency slots, including expansion of the Doctors Across New York Program. The members felt that these issues related to the Society's resolution on protecting physician choice in practice, which was passed by the House of Delegates this year and which MSSNY President Joseph Maldonado, MD is highlighting in recent news to the membership.
- É The Society is finalizing efforts with a professional employer organization (PEO) to help members too small (i.e., sole proprietors) to access traditional benefit packages.
- É The Society is continuing to reach out to Young Physicians on activities and network building events to engage and keep members. In August, members attended a fundraiser theater outing (The 39 Steps) for the benefit of the Society's 501(c)(3) Clifford Spingarn MD Memorial Education Fund.
- É The Society is working with the Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine on a number of joint CME opportunities, including a program at Lenox Hill on October 1 on infectious disease and vaccination issues and one on anatomy and manipulation at Touro on October 18.

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É Request from a member of the New York County Medical Society to MSSNY regarding OutóofóNetwork Insurance issues.

Over the past five months, Society member Eli Einbinder, MD has been coordinating a work group made up of a number of downstate physicians of various specialties and affiliations called the OutóofóNetwork Preservation Work Group. At present, almost 200 doctors have joined the group, with approximately 12 or so actively participating on monthly conference calls on the topic. (Some of these physicians are MSSNY members, but a number are not.) Staff from MSSNY, New York County, and various specialty societies have been invited to sit in on these calls as well. Several OON Preservation subcommittees are focusing on topics such as membership; assistance for those going out of network; lobbying; and hospital OON issues.

The group, many of whom are psychiatrists or surgeons who have been outóof ónetwork (OON) and many of whom are also members of IDNY (Independent Doctors of New York ô an association for doctors who take no insurance) are greatly worried about the state of OON coverage, not only as physicians, but as patients themselves. They see the lack of ability to purchase OON policies as a mortal blow to the private practice of medicine.

The groupø coming together is based on these concerns:

- É Our patients have lost their ability to choose their doctors and hospitals because new regulations that mandate patients into managed care plans exclude OON doctors and premier medical centers because of cost.
- É We need to pool resources in order to let patients know their choices are restricted and help them understand that their basic freedom to buy the insurance that they want has been taken away.
- É Physicians in New York State need coordinated planning together lest we be asking in five years where we all were when this first assault on freedom of choice of physicians began.

Goals of the OON Preservation Work Group

1. Create a functional unified coordinated New York physicians group working on this major practice issues.
2. Work on method to undo physicians õgroup denialö about the mortal threat to private practice.

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3. Build resources earmarked for public relations efforts if and when educating patients clearly becomes necessary.
4. Ultimately plan to organize and support New York patient groups activated by this process.
5. Plan to help New York physicians/private practice survive what is happening and thrive in the future by:
 - ô encouraging all physicians to join their county society and MSSNY and other specialty organizations;
 - ô developing more coordination about and interaction between those associations;
 - ô exploring other option to assist physicians, for example, physician cooperatives.

Request: The Out-of-Network Preservation Work Group would like to work with the Medical Society of the State of New York formally, especially in light of the fact that there may be potential for a number of doctors who are part of this committee to join MSSNY. In any event, it believes that it represents a large number of physicians who are coalescing around the OON issue and could be a great resource and partner for MSSNY. The group recognizes that in its present form, it may not fit into MSSNY's existing committee structure, and would be open to discussing ways it could interact with MSSNY.

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Bronx County Medical Society

The Bronx Democratic County Committee Held its 2015 Annual Dinner on Thursday, July 16, 2015 at the Marina Del Rey - The Throgs Neck Section of the Bronx.
The Speaker of the House - Carl E. Heastie was one of the honorees.

Governor Andrew Cuomo was also in the House...



We have attended these functions in the past, but this by far was one of the memorable. We never saw so many politicians in attendance. We got to speak personally to the "Carl E. Heastie" who was being honored as well as Senators Gustavo Rivera, Jeffrey Klein, & Senator Ruben Diaz. The highlight of the evening was that Governor Andrew Cuomo made a surprise visit. He gave a beautiful tribute to our Bronx...Made us all very proud to be part of this event.

The following 10 members made a contribution/attended
Michael Pisacano, MD, Sana Bloch, MD, David Jakubowicz, MD; Sumir Sahgal, MD; Thakor Rana, MD, Neil Herbsman, MD, Diane P. Miller, Executive Director and Raymond Aponte, Director at SBH

The MSSNYPAC supported two tickets which were given to
Paul Orloff, MD - NY County Medical Society
Jitendra Barmecha, MD, MPH, FACP - Bronx County Medical Society

101 Years of Service to the Bronx Community

The Bronx County Medical Society request the honor of your presence at the Annual Gala honoring our Immediate Past President, Neil Herbsman, M.D. Sunday, October 18, 2015-
Marina Del Rey One Marina Drive, Bronx, NY 10465
4:00 PM Cocktails - Bellagio Room 5:30 PM Dinner ó Venetian Room

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2015 Souvenir Journal in recognition of **Neil D. Herbsman, MD** our Immediate Past President Friends of the Bronx County Medical Society may insert an advertisement in the journal or just inscribe their personal good wishes and greetings

All are welcome to join us...To purchase Tickets & or take a Souvenir Journal Ad Contact Bronx County Medical Society Headquarters via email: bxcms@msn.com or visit the website ó www.bronxdocs.org

Note: We have sent complimentary tickets to the MSSNY leadership & County Presidents in First District Branch. Please RSVP - We hope to see you on the 18th of October